

# Clitheroe Castle Grounds

Clitheroe Castle Museum, Castle Hill, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 1BA

## Clitheroe Castle



The Castle keep was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and has ancient monument status. Originally a three-storey building it is one of the smallest surviving stone-built Norman keeps in England. The castle complex included a range of buildings that went far beyond the defensive. Alongside the keep and enclosed within a curtain wall there would have been many other buildings including a great hall, a chapel to St Michael, courthouse, gatehouse, and stables. This was the centre of regional administration and a focus for the local community. The de Lacy family, the earliest Lords of the Honour of Clitheroe had their principal castle at Pontefract. A trusted Steward ensured that all their lands were properly administered and oversaw legal proceedings at the courts held at Clitheroe Castle. Stewards seem to have become residents at the castle around the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and continued to be appointed until 1945. The museum is in the former Steward's House, a Grade II listed building, originally built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with later additions and modifications.

Explore 16 acres of parkland, home to Lancashire's first Labyrinth and a Creative Activity Area at the foot of the keep.

### Clitheroe War Memorial

The whole of the Castle complex, including the keep, the suite of buildings that now form the museum, the park and the bronze memorial sculpture all form Clitheroe's war memorial. The sculpture was commissioned by Louis Frederick Roslyn, an established artist who had studied at the Royal Academy. Unveiled in 1923 the sculpture is powerful and contemplative. The larger than life-size figure of a Grenadier Guard in battle order with a cap, bowing his head and resting his hands on his reversed rifle stands on a pedestal of grey Aberdeen granite. Below are bronze panels listing the names of those who lost their lives in the World 1 War. A later plaque lists the names of those who died in World War II and plaques on the wall behind record fatalities from the Boer War of 1889-1902 and Northern Ireland in 1972.

### Thinking Ideas:

- Castle: Lots of 'think' questions: What can you see? What would have been in here? What would they have used this for? Why was the castle built here in Norman times?
- Statue: Lots of 'think' questions: Who do you think he is? What clothes is he wearing? Where do you think he has been? Why do you think he is bowing his head? Why do you think he is carrying a rifle?
- Plaque: Lots of 'think' questions: Why do you think we have a list of names? Why do you think they have put the names on the plaque? Why do you think it is important to remember people who have died?

### Activity Ideas:

- Castle: Acting out stories – create your own dragon costume using sticks and leaves and act out different stories using the castle as your stage.
- Castle: What could be taller than the castle? What is shorter than the castle? What is bigger than the castle? What is smaller than the castle?
- View: Go up to the top balcony – what can you see? Play colour eye spy or eye spy.
- Tree identification – walk around what trees can you spot? Woodland Trust – tree identification app.
- Stick/leaf Search: Who can find the longest stick? Who can find the shortest stick? Who can find the thickest stick? Who can find the narrowest stick?
- Castle: Who can find the biggest stone used in the castle? Who can find the smallest stone in the castle?
- Create a bow and arrow out of sticks (you will need to take some string for the bow)
- Play the memory game with different natural activities. Place some natural items around and get the child to close their eyes and remove one item – which item has been removed?
- Play hide and seek – give boundaries and see if they can hide in the given space. If very young children get them to hide a significant object within the castle and then go and find it.
- Can you make a creature out of natural materials? Can you make a picture using only natural materials?
- Go on a rubbish hunt – what rubbish can you find around the castle? What happens to the rubbish? How do they take care of the castle environment? Can you collect the rubbish using pick sticks?

### Plaques timeline

In 2010, ten plaques featuring key events in the history of Clitheroe were installed on the walls of the creative activity area next to the Keep. The plaques, which are designed to look visually appealing and decorative, as well as containing Braille text, encourage people to explore the town's history. Visitors to the castle can take rubbings from the plaques, each of which highlights a local historical event.

### Activity Ideas:

- Look at the timeline and put significant events of the children's own personal history onto it to help with context. E.g. Mum and Dad born, Grandad and Nana were born etc.

- Discuss significant events from the children's lives. Can you remember when you had your birthday party...
- Create your own timeline using natural objects – can you find something that was really old e.g. rock, leaf, them – who is the oldest? Who is the youngest?

### **Labyrinth**

Get lost in the winding pathways of the Clitheroe Castle Labyrinth, the first public labyrinth in Lancashire. Commissioned by Ribble Valley Borough Council in 2005 by international labyrinth artist Jim Buchanan the unique, large-scale labyrinth was designed specifically for the Clitheroe Castle Grounds. Constructed from grass and limestone on the site of an old bowling green this community labyrinth is a stunning example of land art, which attracts and delights local people and visitors alike. It has been named Convex Green, to reflect its shape, colour, and history as a bowling green.

### **Activity Ideas:**

- Which is the longest pathway? Which is the shortest pathway? Or are they the same length?
- Hide an object in the maze and use 'hotter' and 'cooler' to help the child to find it.
- Sticks/stones: which is the longest/shortest?
- Discussions on giving directions, travelling left and right, stop, start etc.
- What time is it Mr Wolf: the children ask 'what time is it Mr Wolf' then the person answers giving them an o'clock number and the children move this amount of spaces (following the path), the children are trying to reach the adult and the wolf is trying to stop them. At some point the adult answers with 'dinner time' and runs after the children.
- Skateboarding, scootering, balance bike: how far can you go with one push? How far can you go with two pushes etc? Who travelled the furthest?



### **The pinnacle**

The pinnacle monument is in the former rose garden at Clitheroe Castle. The pinnacle, or turret, originally formed part of the roof of the new Houses of Parliament after it had to be rebuilt following the Great Fire of 1834 and is one of eight removed in the 1930s. Purchased by Sir William Brass MP and presented to the town for George VI's coronation in 1937 the pinnacle at Clitheroe is unique in that it is the only one known to be accessible to the public. The other seven are in private collections or are lost to records.

### Activity Ideas:

- What shapes can you see in the statue? What creatures can you see in the statue?
- Follow the lines on the ground, where do they lead?
- Can you jump off the stones? How far can you jump? How long was your jump? Can Mum/dad jump further? Who jumped the furthest? Who's jump was the shortest?
- Play shadow tig – you try to jump on someone's shadow and then they become the tigger. How can you make it harder for people to jump on your shadow? Make your shape smaller. How are shadows created? Can you see the shadow of the statue?
- Colour hunt: Who can find something brown?
- Sound hide and seek: Children find a place to hide and they need to make a noise and adults need to find them. Can you make this noise? How do you make that noise? Copy and repeat?



### Clitheroe Castle Museum

Overlooking the picturesque town of Clitheroe is the ancient landmark, Clitheroe Castle. Sitting proudly on top of its limestone mound the Castle has dominated the local skyline for over 800 years. The Castle and grounds are open daily and free to visit. Stunning panoramic views of Ribble Valley's beautiful, historic landscape can be seen from here which certainly makes the climb up to the top worthwhile!

The award-winning Museum is in the former Steward's House, a Grade II listed building that was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to house the Steward of Clitheroe Castle. Visitors will also find a Gift Shop making it a great day out for all the family.

Visitors to the museum will be transported through 350 million years of local history. The journey starts with the formation of the landscape we see today and why the Ribble Valley is a haven for unique wildlife. Moving through the galleries the captivating story of the Castle and surrounding area continues to unfold. From local industry and heroes to folklore and legends the exhibits, touchscreen animations and sound points make it a shared experience for everyone to enjoy. Younger hearts may take an adventure kitted out with a rucksack, map, and magnifying glass! Experience super family-friendly displays and exhibitions which will provide you with reasons to come back again and again.

Clitheroe Castle Museum is managed by Lancashire County Council's Museum Service, on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

### **Admission charges**

Adults £4.90

Concessions £3.70 (over 65, people with a disability, unwaged and students)

Accompanied children - free

Young people 13-18 free

Carers accompanying visitors with a disability - free

[Family and friends Xplorer Pass](#): £20

For group bookings or guided tours please contact us to discuss your needs

### Opening times

Monday to Sunday 11:00 - 16:00

### How to find us

Clitheroe Castle Museum  
Castle Hill, Clitheroe, Lancashire,  
BB7 1BA.

### Facilities

Car parking available for blue badge holders  
Baby changing facilities  
Assistance dogs welcome  
Drop off / pick up point  
Guide dogs welcome  
Full disabled access  
Meeting room for hire  
Activity room for hire



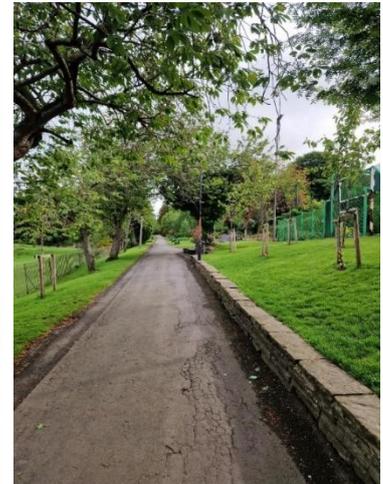
### Access

Clitheroe Castle Museum is within the castle grounds at the centre of the town of Clitheroe. The buildings are at the top of a relatively steep (negotiable by powered scooter) slope. See the [access statement](#) (PDF 1362KB) for more detail or please ring us if you have any questions.

### Contact us

Phone: [01200 424 568](tel:01200424568)

Email: [clitheroecastle@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:clitheroecastle@lancashire.gov.uk)



### Clitheroe Castle parkrun

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer, or spectate – it's up to you! Every Saturday at 9:00am.

### Clitheroe skatepark

Clitheroe skatepark was built and opened in 2006 and is an all-concrete park made up of both transition and street elements that can be found in the grounds of Clitheroe Castle.



Other features of the park include statues, a children's park and playing fields - which can accommodate travelling fairs and circuses, a café, sports courts, and a bandstand that hosts various concerts throughout the year.



### Activity Ideas

- Roll down the hill – who can get the furthest? What shapes can you create on the ground?
- Which is the tallest tree? What shaped leaves does this tree have? What colour leaves does this tree have? Can you create a leaf picture? Why does a tree have leaves?
- Animal spot: What animals can you spot around the park? Where do they live? What do they eat?
- Flowers: What flowers can you spot around the park? What shape are the petals? What colour are the petals? What colour is the stem?
- Keep fit: How many star jumps/hops/jumps/running/crossovers/etc can you do in one minute? Who can jump the furthest? Who can hop the furthest?
- Woodland World – can you create a house for the creatures or for your toy using natural resources?

